WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Founded December 19, 1857 SEPTEMBER 1978

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Since the last issue of *Impressions* a number of actions have been taken in connection with the plans for a museum for the Society near the Barton Dam powerhouse.

The City officers, Barton Hills Association, and the people of the whole county have been involved in the picture. Details about the separate actions will be given in this and future issues of *Impressions.* Suffice to say, the Society's Board of Directors is working on answers to the problems. Barton Hills has agreed to allow a permanent access to be built along the railroad right-of-way and to give the Society temporary use of their private road from the Whitmore Lake Road during construction of a museum near the powerhouse. The City officers have agreed to put in a road and landscaping when a museum is built and funds become available. Meanwhile the Society's Board has had the debris in the powerhouse cleaned out and has arranged to have the roof and windows repaired. A Chicago firm, John Grenzebach and Associates, has been retained and, at the present time, has a representative interviewing a large number of citizens to help us decide if this is the time and place as well as other factors connected with the museum problem. If their conclusions indicate that a campaign for funds would lead to a satisfactory conclusion, the Board will take suitable action.

Meanwhile, Vice-President Douglas Crary is lining up an exciting slate of speakers for our monthly meetings, beginning with an entertaining look at "Local Tombstone Art" by Wystan Stevens, September 28. We hope to see all of you there.

--Leigh Anderson

MUSEUM GAINS MOMENTUM; BARTON POWERHOUSE EXPECTED TO BE WEATHERTIGHT THIS FALL

Barton Powerhouse is expected to be weathertight soon and at long last some of the Society's extensive collection of 150 plus years of "Washtenawiana" may be moved in for storage yet this fall.

That is the news from the museum committee which gave Architect David Osler the "go ahead" May 22 to renovate the powerhouse.

Meanwhile the project gained momentum in several other ways.

Barton Hills and the City of Ann Arbor reached an agreement "in principle" August 14 for a new access road to be built by the city on land donated by Barton Hills along the Penn Central Railroad tracks.

A professional fund raising firm which raised money for the new St. Joseph Mercy Hospital here is completing a study to decide feasibility of mounting a fund drive now for the museum addition.

An architectural model of the proposed museum made by the firm of David Osler and Partners was honored by inclusion in a summer issue of *Progressive Architecture*, a national magazine devoted to newsworthy architectural subjects.

The model was exhibited at the Builder's Show last spring and at the WCHS Art Fair Booth in front of Great Lakes Federal Savings in July.

The design incorporates 10,000 square feet of gallery and other space leading to the powerhouse with "its dramatic spatial qualities" and view of Barton Pond.

The study interviewer reports "very favorable" interviews with community leaders indicating a great deal of interest in a county museum, Hazel Proctor, museum committee chairman, said.

The interest and cooperation of Barton Hills in providing access is "very gratifying," she added.

The need for such a museum is great, she noted. The collection includes items from all periods which wouldn't all fit into a building of a certain period, such as an old house.

She looks forward to the day when the county museum can serve not only the general public but local school systems and other museums and societies in the county through a loan program to increase awareness and enjoyment of our county's history.

Marion Cranmore, director of elementary education in the Ann Arbor Public Schools, speaking for the proposed museum last year said the museum would be "an invaluable resource. Study of Ann Arbor is part of the curriculum because we need to know our roots. Now there is nothing they can see or handle."

Meanwhile work is proceeding to clean and weatherproof the powerhouse. Osler believes the pigeons have been finally evicted. The roof contract has been let and glazing of windows is to begin shortly, Mrs. Proctor said.

CITY STARTED AS A SALT LICK

In the 1970's Saline is a rapidly growing city with a large Ford Motor Company plastics factory on its east edge and a quaint old mill on its west edge.

In the 1930's Henry Ford I owned the mill and was experimenting with making plastics from soybeans there.

In the 1840's Schuyler Haywood built the mills and ground flour and sawed wood for the little settlement which grew up around the mill. He named it "Barnegat" for his hometown in New Jersey. Saline was then over the hill to

In the 1820's when Orange Risdon arrived to survey the old Chicago Road there was nothing there but the salt licks which attracted wild animals, and perhaps Indians in search of easy prey as they traveled the Great Sauk Trail.

Those are a few of the stages in the development of the Washtenaw community visited by WCHS on its annual tour in June.

A busload of history-minded passengers headed out Saline-Ann Arbor Road on a pleasant June day. Herb Bartlett, a past president of WCHS who now lives in Saline, and Dan Lirones, tour chairman, boarded at the edge of town.

Lirones pointed out several 19th and early 20th century homes and buildings along N. Ann Arbor Street and Michigan Avenue as we headed for the old mill, now Weller's Furniture Store and Carriage House, a popular wedding reception site.

The Weller's were unable to be there because of a death in the family but Lirones and President Leigh Anderson were able to ad lib the history, assisted by a tape Anderson had made of selections from a history of the mill, *Wellers* by Paul A. Meyer.

The old mill at the junction of the Saline River and US-12 has been added to, improved, deteriorated, moved on its foundation,

ORANGE RISDON
Founder of Saline, surveyor of old Chicago road.

had outbuildings added and taken away, been cleaned up, repaired, painted over and faded away, since it was built in 1845, Meyer says.

The architectural style may be characterized as Greek Revival, interpreted in the Michigan vernacular, Meyer wrote. Besides the mill itself with two additions by Ford, there is also the extraction plant, now the carriage house, and a tiny pump house, also a Ford addition. The buildings are all wood frame construction except the base of the mill is stone and concrete.

As noted Saline was first settled in the 1820's by Orange Risdon along the old Chicago Road which follows or parallels the Indians' Great Sauk Trail.

After Schuyler's mill was built other industries built around it, including an ashery, blacksmith shop, hardware store, tinsmith, cooper shop and a weaver's shop. A doctor and two lawyers lived there.

John McKinnon, an early Saline resident made a romantic recount of Barnegat in 1855 which appeared in the *Saline Observer* in 1909. He asked his readers to "picture in your mind if you can Barnegat—the streets filled with people from the different mills, shops and farms, the teamsters, stagedrivers, and other working men gathering together to hear their band. The inhabitants were intensely proud of their military band consisting of two fifers, two snare drummers and a bass drummer for they had the reputation of being the best in Michigan."

The Schuyler mill was purchased by Jacob Sherman in 1855, then sold two years later to William H. Pattison. In 1866 the mill and surrounding property were brought by John A. Klein, who with his son and grandson operated the mill for the next 61 years. But as Saline prospered, Barnegat died. The mill stopped operating in 1925. Joseph Schmidt bought it in 1927 and sold it to Ford in 1927.

Ford acquired the property as part of his "village industries" plan, a great experiment in industrial decentralization. His factory-farm philosophy envisioned dotting many American rivers with small water-driven auto parts factories which would offer employment to farmers and stop their migration to urban centers.

The city according to Ford had been a mistake. It meant overcrowding, high land costs, high taxes, poor housing and congested transportation while the country was an area of hope. Ford declared that "factory and farm should have been organized as adjuncts to one another, not competitors. With one foot in industry and one foot in agriculture, America is safe," he said.

Ford also rebuilt the dam to provide water power and moved the Hoyt School building to 600

West Michigan Avenue where it remains as a private residence. Ford's idea was that children of his employes could attend the school.

After Ford's retirement in 1945, the company divested itself of most of its mills. Soy Brands, Inc., a local firm, acquired the mill to produce soy bean animal feed but the operation was short-lived because the machinery was found to be obsolete.

In 1947, a rendering firm based in Mount Pleasant bought it. For several years after 1951, Barbara Hamill, producer of the Saline Mill Theater, turned the extraction plant into a playhouse and the mill into sleeping quarters for members of her summer stock company. Nancy and Ted Heusel of WPAG radio were married there, Lirones noted. In the late 1950's the mill changed owners several times and in 1962 was opened as the Sauk Trail Inn. Unsuccessful attempts were made to develop commercial shops or apartments.

In 1967 the Carl Weller family converted the mill into a furniture store and group of quaint shops. They have renovated the interior and part of the exterior, Meyer notes.

After browsing around the carriage house and mill, tourgoers re-embarked for a lunch break at Leutheusers Restaurant, a visit to the restored First Presbyterian Church and the Harry Finch farm to hear how he almost fell into a salt well. Between stops, Lirones pointed out a number of historic homes and other sites including the imposing Davenport-Curtiss house at 300 East Michigan Avenue built in 1876, the Risdon-Knight house built in 1829 and moved to 210 West Henry Street, a plaque on the south side of Michigan Avenue where the Risdon house originally stood and the last hitching posts in town in the 200 block of Henry.

At the church Taylor Jacobsen, art instructor at Saline High School and a member of the church, talked about the renovation of the church built in 1898.

Eight or nine years ago, the church building was in poor shape and the congregation decided to build a new church north of town on the old Guenther Gardens property because the old one would be so expensive to repair. But they found the new one would be "astronomical" and finally decided they'd like to stay in the old church.

They planned to build an annex and repair the church for $200,000 but the repair alone cost $125,000 and the annex has been abandoned for the present.

They have completely rewired and insulated the building, re-shingled the roof and spire and installed a new heating and cooling (blower) system. The brick exterior was cleaned and repointed and hard plastic storm windows installed to protect the stained glass windows.

They removed a false ceiling and walls enclosing rooms on either side of the altar. The false ceiling had been put up in a previous renovation to cover plaster which was falling down. At that time they gave their old pipe organ to a Garden City Church and got an electric one.

Their worries about acoustics after removal of the false ceiling were unfounded. "They're tremendous." But there was a portion of arched ceiling missing which it cost $800 to replace and some missing capitals which they cast themselves from plaster.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Built 1898, recently restored.

They showed slides made from glass negatives of the original interior.

The Presbyterian congregation in Saline dates back to 1831. The first church was erected in 1842 of wood probably across the street, Jacobsen said. The first service in the present church was in 1898. Four years later they had the total debt of $5,981 paid off.

The Baptists joined with them in a Federated Church in 1919 which continued to 1950 when they started their own.

The tour continued out Monroe Street, the former plank road which once had a toll gate near the bridge over the Saline River. Just over the bridge in the woods behind a factory is the site of the former salt springs or salt lick from which Saline was named.

The bus continued to the Harry Finch farm where tour goers could view his collection of exotic fowl, including some rare white peacocks which obligingly spread their tails.

He got started with a pair of Amherst pheasants in 1965, a gift from a daughter. He has added silver pheasants (white with black stripes), gold and black Reeves pheasants, Asian partridge, regular blue-green peacocks, mallard ducks and bronze turkeys, the kind traditionally associated with Thanksgiving. Nursery school youngsters come from Ann Arbor each year to see them, he said.

Finch grew up on the farm with the salt springs and later operated that farm, which had belonged to his grandfather and great-grandfather who bought it in 1858.

Finch had plowed and fitted the salt spring field for 15 years or more, both with horses and tractors. Then one very wet spring he was plowing for corn with a tractor. As he came up over a little ridge, "the tractor sort of

hesitated and started laboring and digging in. It settled over on the right side. I stood up and leaned over the fender. I thought it was a woodchuck hole.

The tractor finally pulled itself ahead but right under the plows a big chunk of sod, just like a manhole cover, dropped out of sight.

I pulled ahead, went back and looked. There was a hole about nine feet deep and about nine feet in diameter. I could have been buried there if the tractor had gone over. Down toward the bottom I could see the top of a casing with a stick sticking up from it.

He went to the house to get a shovel to explore further. His wife summoned a neighbor across the river on Milan Road to go with him. The neighbor, about 85, knew what had happened.

"I dug around there and I took hold of this stick and I thought I could pull it out. It was part of drill rod. You couldn't break it off. It was jammed down there as if they'd plugged it," Finch said. "I dug around and discovered another six-inch casing about two-and-a-half feet to the side of the first. That was down deeper and there was a flat stone laying over the top. It was oozing out some brine.

The neighbor, Mr. Barr, knew about the attempt to recover salt there. He explained that they had a boiler and forced boiling hot water down the one casing to dissolve salt rock down there and then the pressure would bring the brine up through the other pipe. They gathered it and evaporated it, Barr told him.

Finch says that in 1862 his great-grandfather sold 12 acres of land to a company formed to drill for salt. Finch has the contract which stipulated that if for any reason they didn't drill salt the contract was void and the land would revert back to the farm which is what happened.

As far as he knew, and my folks said too, they figured that

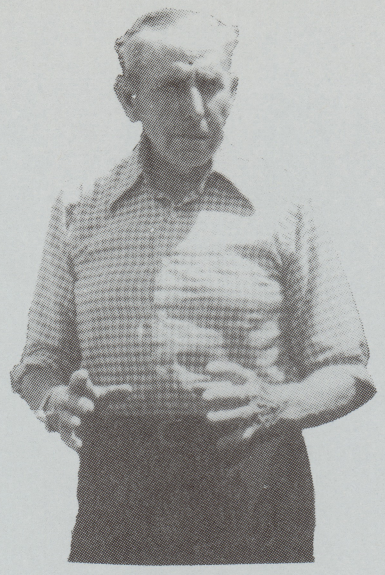


Photo by Daniel S. Lirones

HARRY FINCH

He almost fell in a salt well.

the salt company was bought off, Finch said. Right across the river is a salt lick. In the spring of the year when salt would form on top of the ground as the water evaporated, livestock would come clear across the field to lap it up, Finch said.

A neighbor drilled a 225 foot water well and got brine. They couldn't use it and even the livestock wouldn't drink it, Finch said. He is convinced there is salt there and thinks it might be part of the same rock formation in Detroit where salt is mined.

Finch and his brother sold the farm in 1958. He now lives further down at 9795 Macon Road.

BLACKIE RE-ELECTED BY SALINE SOCIETY

Norman K. Blackie was re-elected president of the Saline Historical Society for the coming year. Serving with him are Alberta Rogers, vice-president; Dick Coleman, treasurer; and Joan Merrill, secretary. Helen Moser and Mary Koebbe are board members while Mary Lirones is immediate past-president.

LEIGH ANDERSON ELECTED PRESIDENT FOR 1978-79

Leigh C. Anderson, professor-emeritus of chemistry at The University of Michigan, was elected president of the Washtenaw County Historical Society for the coming year.

Retiring President Thomas F. Lacy was given a standing ovation for his two years of service. Patricia Austin was elected treasurer, Ethelyn Morton, corresponding secretary, and Alice Ziegler, recording secretary, at the annual meeting in May.

New directors to serve to June 1981 are Herb Pfabe, Sr., David Pollock, Angela Welch and Hazel Proctor.

The treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of $64,763.75 as of May 25, 1978.

The committee noted that the board has members from Ann Arbor, Saline, Chelsea, Dixboro, Ypsilanti and the county-at-large through Robert Gamble, county parks commissioner.

IRENE LAWLISS PASSES

Irene M. Lawliss who served as refreshments chairman for WCHS meetings before she moved to Traverse City in 1977 died there June 28 at age 69. She also was on the Historical Society of Michigan staff from April 1975 to September 1976 and had previously served there as a volunteer.

DEXTER RE-ELECTS SLATE OF OFFICERS

Dexter Historical Society re-elected its slate of officers. Wallace Fusilier is president; Earl Doletzky, vice-president; Wana Baldus, treasurer; Kathleen Adair, corresponding secretary; and Heloise Dunstan, recording secretary. Mrs. Sarah Frank is acting museum director, with Bene Fusilier as secretary. Frances Ernst is Scio township representative.

Precious Relics Shunted About During Long Search For Museum

Curator Stuart Thayer hopes Orange Risdon's saddlebags will have to be moved only one more time—into a permanent museum.

At the Washtenaw County Historical Society's annual meeting in May he discussed the society's precious collection of early Washtenaw "relics" which have been shunted from one temporary storage place to another during a decades-long search for a museum.

Progress this summer on the Barton Powerhouse project suggest that big move may not be far off. (See museum story, page 1.)

Then the saddlebags Risdon used in 1825 when he surveyed the old Chicago Road (U.S. 12) and founded Saline may at last find a home along with 150-plus years of other memorabilia.

The society, founded in 1857 and reorganized twice, was first interested in publishing, Thayer said. Since he started cataloging artifacts in 1975 he has found no evidence of cataloging before 1929 when Mrs. S. W. Clarkson became the first curator. Howell Taylor was curator in the 1940's and possibly before. He was followed by Linda Eberbach.

The collection was once stored in Bach School during Howell Taylor's time. The school apparently agreed to store it if the children could come and look at it. Taylor apparently spent a lot of time as a museum guide, Thayer said.

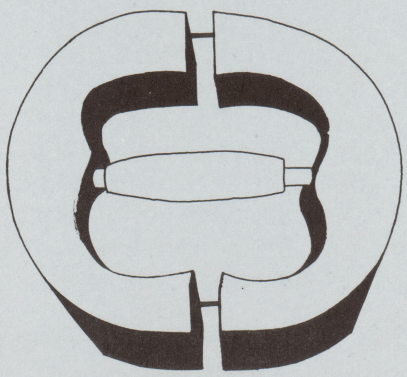
One time it was on display in the county building. Then they wanted the space and moved it all to the basement before informing the Society. The collection was in Hank Pool's barn out on Scio Church Road and finally was moved to a University of Michigan owned building at Willow Run Airport. (Other items are stored in the Tuomy house barn, Kempf house, The University of Michigan's Stearns Music Collection and Bentley Historical Library, safe deposit boxes and a number of private homes.)

Thayer and a cataloger started work on the six rooms at Willow Run on September 1, 1975. The heating system broke down and the U-M could not afford to repair it, so they could not work in cold weather. Other suspensions were caused by running out of printed forms and the cataloger leaving. He figured they actually had worked about five months.

Last May Thayer started again with a new cataloger, a U-M librarian. Only the cataloger is being paid, he noted. "Great Lakes Federal was gracious enough to support our printing costs and I won't charge anything for time or travel."

Their system has 15 classifications—clothing, tools, furniture, etc. They make a classification card for each item with its number if it has one. If not, they assign a catchall number, "W-75", meaning it was there when they started in 1975.

From records of other curators he expects to be able to change some numbers back to original ones. "All we have to do is match up the items. If we have a piece of paper that says we have a settee, until I finish I don't know how many settees we have. One paper says, 'This was Mother's.' I have no idea who 'Mother' was. That's the kind of thing we are faced with."



From WCHS Collection

Hat blocking form from days when no lady or gentleman would go without a hat.

"We keep donor cards to show who gave the articles. It's very important to be able to identify quickly things that were given by a certain person. Otherwise if someone comes in and asks to see the item Aunt Sue gave, it can be a big embarrassment, museum people tell me."

To mark the item, they use a dab of white paint, and mark a number on that with india ink. Everything except clothing is done that way. Tags will have to be sewn on clothes, he said.

There are several important groups of artifacts—those from early settlers, immigrants from Europe, the Civil War, especially the Battle of Lookout Mountain, a good-sized collection of handmade tools and lots of clothes.

Ann Allen's fan which belonged to one of the two "Anns" for whom Ann Arbor was named, now hangs over in Kempf House, he noted. There are other items from the Risdon family and the Botsford family. One of the latter is a mortar and pestle used to prepare medicine in the Revolutionary War. Another is a candlestick used by Elnathan Botsford "to light his way to bed every night of his life." He settled on what is now the site of Concordia College on Geddes Road.

"I'm happy that at some time in the past their families realized the importance of these people to the community and donated these things."

"We have a very heavy gray linen sack, about the size of a gunny sack, used to carry goods here from Germany," Thayer said. "I think that's a rare item. I've only seen one or two of those. It has the owner's name stenciled on, the town he was from and going to and the ship he was on. We also have trunks, actually wooden boxes, other immigrants used."

The wood and metal tool collection includes hay forks, hay saws, and a handmade yoke for a man to carry water. One company of the 20th Michigan regiment was recruited in Washtenaw County for the Civil War. Some of their heirs including Mrs. Groomes and the Chapin family saved a number of items.

There are lots of special clothes—ball gowns, wedding gowns, children's clothes, military uniforms and masonic gear. "We could probably clothe a whole platoon of Masons if we had to."

Some of the problems encountered are identification, deterioration, accessions unrelated to Washtenaw County, and access to items. He expects that objects and records can eventually be matched up.

"All our metal is rusted. Mice got in. I didn't find any moth damage, however."

"One day in 1976, I discovered a radiator had burst in a room at Willow Run and we had about 50 bags of wet clothing. I called Ford Museum at Greenfield Village for advice." Following their instructions, he got them fumigated at Bentley Library, then moved them to Tom Lacy's basement where Cataloger Sue Wayman vacuumed them.

"When we got through, you couldn't tell anything had happened. Fortunately, we only had to throw away three minor pieces of clothing which were badly decomposed."

About the only restoration that has been done is a century-old Michigan State Troops flag which was back-to-back with a 38-star American flag, he said. I have also been given permission to approach someone who can restore our oil paintings, mostly portraits. Some have holes in them, some are only dirty, he added.

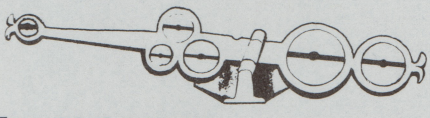
Items unrelated to Washtenaw County are another problem. A doctor's wife gave us clothing which belonged to her mother and grandmother who lived in Montgomery, Alabama.

Except for Margaret Chapin, think probably Howell Taylor gave more than anyone. While his mother and grandmother were from this county, all his male relatives were from Lenawee County. Maybe sometime we can swap with them.

We have a clause in the acknowledgement form when anyone gives us something that we can do anything we want with it. We'll have to have a committee to oversee such decisions.

When he picked up the tool collection from a doctor in Dexter, Thayer said, "I had a pickup truck full, piled way up. I threw a tarpaulin over it. Then she gave me four animal heads—caribou, reindeer, antelope and something else and I put those on top. It was quite a sight going down the expressway."

The same donor also gave a collection of interesting old bottles for medicine and beer.



From WCHS Collection

Banker's scales—largest circle, about 1-5/16 inch, was for $20 gold coin, smallest, about 1/2 inch, for $1.

When we get into the museum, I look for better access to these things. Some persons have volunteered to help but I don't have any place for them to work yet.

He showed several items from the collection. Herbert Bartlett and Dan Lirones identified the first as a hand potato planter. Lirones remembers his father using a similar tool.

A security guard at Willow Run, checking to see what Thayer was doing there, identified another item that puzzled him. "That's a hog scraper," he said (used to scrape hair off hogs when butchering.)

Thayer showed a rich-looking maroon velvet blouse or vest from the Douglas costume collection, "one of the largest collections we have."

Miss Douglas's father on the U-M faculty from 1844-1877 started the medical department and chemistry laboratory, also the Ann Arbor Gas Light Co. and served twice as mayor. Miss Dougals willed the Gothic Revival-style family home to the U-M for the use of WCHS but the U-M refused since there was no money to maintain it. It is now the American Baptist Student Center just west of the First Baptist Church.

Other items were a hat stretcher, banker's scales to determine if coins were really gold, and a "chichi," an ornate Chinese figurine supposed to be a household god or guardian. It was brought from China by a missionary whose daughter married a teacher at the old Nutting Academy in Lodi township.

Helen Polhemus, who ran a hat shop here for many years, gave an old brim board for blocking ladies hats and a "fantastic" collection of feathers. Her family also had a livery stable where the old Post Office is.

While most of our military keepsakes consist of swords and uniform jackets, we have a fife used in the Civil War by Michael W. Fitzgerald plus a tintype of him.

"The collection really reflects middle-class or upper middle-class. There is very little to reflect the working man's life," he noted. Many items are expensive items you don't throw away such as jewelry, opera hats, an ivory fan."

He estimated there are 2,000 to 2,500 items. He had cataloged item number 600 of previously uncataloged items the day he talked.

VIRGINIA LEWIS HEADS SALEM SOCIETY

Mrs. Virginia Lewis is the new president of the Salem Historical Society. Elsie Manson is vice-president, Shirley Bolton, secretary, and Annie Wessel, treasurer.

RE: OCTOBER MEETING

Program plans for the October 26 WCHS meeting were not final at press time.

GREEN THUMBS, GREEN PLANTS, GREENBACKS KATHERINE GROOMES SALE YIELDS $277

Washtenaw County Historical Society is richer by $277.75, thanks to many contributors and workers at the annual Katherine Groomes Memorial Plant Sale September 6 and 7 under the portico of Great Lakes Federal Savings.

Mrs. Carol Freeman coordinated the event as chairman. The sale included books and craft items as well as plants.

Businesses contributing were Chelsea Flower Shop, Petal Shop, Louise Flowers, University Flower Shop and Nielsen's. Contributors were Mrs. Russell Bidlack, Mrs. Marion Van Sickle, Mrs. Janet Osler, Mrs. May Werle, Dr. Dell Henry, Dr. Howard Ross, Mrs. Ethelyn Morton, Mrs. Margaret Underwood, Mrs. Edna Koch, J. W. Wilkins, Irene Hayner, Miss Mary Steere, Mrs. Fred Dobson, Mrs. Reena Cranor, Mrs. Frances Gamble, Norma Green, Miss Florence Haas, Mrs. Marge Mundus, Miss Frances Ticknor, Mrs. Edmond Devine, Tom Lacy, Mrs. William Keppler, Miss Lois Nowland, Miss Ella McNeill, Mrs. Lois Foyle, George and Mary Campbell, Mrs. Helen Begole, Mrs. Grace Parker, Mrs. Rose Begole, Mrs. Doris Konarske, and Alice Ziegler.

Sale helpers were Dr. Edith Pelz, Mrs. Morton, Mrs. Gamble, Mrs. Hazel Proctor, Mrs. Lois Sutherland, Mrs. Koch, Mrs. Cranor, Mrs. Foyle, Mrs. Marion Davis, Harold Jones, Mr. Campbell, Mrs. Dorothy Purdy, Mrs. Janet Rocco, Glen Freeman and Mrs. Ziegler.

Apologies and special thanks to anyone unintentionally omitted from this list.

CHAPIN PIANO TOYS BY THOUSANDS, SUMMER HOME ALL BEAR LEIGH ANDERSON TOUCH

Chances are if you call our new WCHS president, Leigh Anderson, he'll answer the phone from his basement woodworking shop.

Woodcraft is almost a full-time hobby with him when he's in town. For a number of years he assisted the late Ashley Clague who made and distributed educational toys and mathematical games to local schools and hospitals as a Kiwanis Club project.

While he estimates Clague made tens of thousands of toys and games, many in plastic, he himself has made thousands of wooden ones. He is continuing the project on a limited scale.

He has also made a number of tables, trivets, trays, etc., for their home in Ann Arbor as well as a lot of construction and finishing work on their summer home, DuneHouse (sic), on the Leelanau Peninsula overlooking Lake Michigan.

Another very time-consuming project to which he gave his time was the repair and restoration of the Chapin piano cabinet or case. Ann Arbor's first piano, it was brought here by oxcart in 1827.

When it was removed from the Stearns Collection in the fall of 1973, it was almost a "basket case." Time and atmospheric conditions had played havoc with both case and mechanism. While Prof. Kurt Pickut restored the mechanism, Professor Anderson repaired the case and restored its mahogany luster.

The results were unveiled at the December 1974 meeting. It was played again in April for the society.

Professor-Emeritus Anderson was chairman of the University of Michigan chemistry department from 1948 to 1967. A native of Muskegon, he graduated from the U-M with a B.S. degree in chemistry in 1921 and a Ph.D. degree in 1924.

He has written a history of Fraternity Masonic Lodge here and recently finished a history of the road their summer house is on with his wife Alloa.

GLFS DONATES SPACE FOR ART FAIR USE; WCHS NETS $1,010

Thanks to the generosity of Great Lakes Federal Savings in donating use of their space during the Art Fair July 19-22, WCHS added $1,010 to its coffers, and increased public awareness of its activities.

Space under the portico of the main office on Liberty Street was divided into booths and rented to artists. After business hours, WCHS rented parking spaces in the parking lot to fairgoers.

WCHS also made use of one of the booths in front to exhibit the museum model, solicit donations and memberships and sell picture history books of local communities, also donated by GLFS.

The donation was arranged by Hazel Proctor, vice-president for advertising and public relations, who is also WCHS museum committee chairman. Robert Gamble, Dr. William Bender and Lois Foyle of the WCHS board shared responsibilities for the project.

Many thanks are due all those who manned the WCHS booth, Mrs. Foyle said. Since they also were among those who helped with the plant sale their names are listed there. Special thanks to David Braun who helped erect the display of old pictures and get them out and in each night and morning of the fair, she added, and to Wystan Stevens who set up a slide presentation on an automatic viewing machine. Both picture displays attracted considerable interest, she noted.

Thanks also to those who assisted with parking—Sam Breck, Dan Lirones, Herb Pfabe, Sr., Dave Pollock, John Proctor and Sam Sturgis.

NEW MEMBERS ADDED

Membership Chairman Angela Welch reports 83 new members have been signed up since January, including seven life members as a result of her special mailings.

WYSTAN IN NEW HAUNTS FOR SHOW SEPTEMBER 28— 'LOCAL TOMBSTONE ART'

Wystan Stevens, unofficial and unpaid local historian who is seldom seen about town without a camera around his neck, has been in some new haunts.

He's been prowling around some local cemeteries photographing "Local Tombstone Art." That's the title of his slide talk Thursday September 28 at the first WCHS meeting of the year.

Stevens will bring his wit and humor to a "different" part of the American scene. He says he never realized the variety of expressions and biography that can be found on tombstones.

The meeting will be at 8 p.m. in Liberty Hall of Great Lakes Federal Savings (formerly Ann Arbor Federal), Liberty and Division Streets, Ann Arbor.

ALMA COLLEGE PROVOST RONALD KAPP TO SPEAK

Ronald O. Kapp, provost of Alma College who grew up here, will speak at the Genealogy Society of Washtenaw County, meeting at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, September 24, at Washtenaw Community College. He will talk about researching and publishing of his recent 190-page volume, *Wurttemberg to Washtenaw: An Account of the Kapp Families of Washtenaw County, Michigan*. A 1 p.m. help session is planned.

WASHTENAW COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEETING

8 P.M., THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 28, 1978

Liberty Hall

Great Lakes Federal Savings
Liberty at Division

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Chelsea Area Historical Society —8 p.m. Monday, October 9, at McKune Memorial Library. The society has stationery for sale featuring Chelsea's distinctive clock tower on the Glazier Building. It is available from Mrs. Thomas Smith, 475-9353.

Dexter Area Historical Society —Museum will be open 1-3 p.m. each Tuesday and the second Saturday of each month this fall. A new display of antique glass will soon be on exhibit.

Manchester Area Historical Society — 8 p.m. Monday, September 25 (fourth Monday) at Methodist Church.

Milan Historical Society — Meets at 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday of month at Milan Community House.

Saline Historical Society— Housetour 1-6 p.m. Sunday, October 1, featuring four turn-of-the-century homes, two churches, a farm, arts and crafts demonstrations and antique car display. It also includes a contemporary home once owned by a Ford Motor Company executive with attached greenhouse. Another home has an Amy Carter-type dollhouse. Advance tickets $2 at Citizen's Bank or by mail from SHS, Box 324, Saline 48176. Tickets $2.50 each on day of tour. Senior Citizens and students, $1.

Exhibits will include quilting, quilling, wood carving, spinning and antique dolls. Cider and pretzels will be available.

Regular meetings 8 p.m. third Tuesday of each month at Saline High School library on north side of building. Use semicircular drive off Maple Road, they suggest.

A series of programs on restoring older homes is planned this fall, with each one on a different aspect such as kitchens or financing.

Ypsilanti Historical Society— Chicken and dumplings and amusing reminiscences are in store for the first meeting this fall.

Foster Fletcher and Arthur Howard will tell about their Ypsilanti boyhoods following a country-style dinner at 5 p.m. Sunday, October 15, at the First Baptist Church, 1110 W. Cross St. It is open to the public. Tickets $4, children under 12, $2. Reservations may be made at the museum 482-4990 mornings or at 483-3236 or 483-5336.

The society plans monthly meetings this year instead of only quarterly as before.

Frank Burgess will display and tell about his collection of antique door knobs at the museum from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, September 23.

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